

"Barretts of Wimpole Street" Crowds Loew's Theatre, Toronto, for Two Weeks Run

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 26, No. 26

TORONTO 2, CANADA

October 20th, 1934



"BARRETTS" BLINDFOLD TEST!

Pick any city at random
and you'll get a RAVE!

(and a NEW Box-office record!)

(see next page)

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

- ★ **NEW YORK DAILY NEWS** ★ ★ ★ ★ (*Four Stars*)—"Magnificently and sensitively portrayed by Norma Shearer, Fredric March, Charles Laughton. Stars of 'Barretts of Wimpole Street' in triple triumph!"
- ★ **HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH**—"Already on our 'Ten Best of 1934' list. In all probability it will be voted THE BEST picture of the year..."
- ★ **RICHMOND NEWS-LEADER**—"Undoubtedly one of the outstanding screen productions of the year, both for sheer beauty and from the standpoint of individual performances..."
- ★ **HOUSTON PRESS**—"Picture is certain to enter all lists of the 'best 10' for 1934...one of the finest efforts yet made at a civilized use of the screen...is artistically thrilling and highly entertaining...a motion picture no lover of the movies can afford to miss..."
- ★ **LOUISVILLE HERALD-POST**—"A vivid, vital and perfect production..."
- ★ **PROVIDENCE NEWS-TRIBUNE**—"The Barretts' a brilliant production—brilliantly conceived, written, acted and directed..."
- ★ **ATLANTA JOURNAL**—"An extraordinary success...direction conspicuously fine...Miss Shearer's performance most appealing one..."
- ★ **BOSTON POST**—"A superb, inspired production...for memorable moments in a motion picture theatre we recommend 'The Barretts'...Miss Shearer's finest picture..."
- ★ **INDIANAPOLIS STAR**—"A film for everybody. A credit to the screen."
- ★ **WASHINGTON POST**—"Takes rank virtually in a classification of its own..."
- ★ **KANSAS CITY STAR**—"Millions of people will see the movie and enjoy it...Literature's loveliest romance..."
- ★ **DALLAS MORNING NEWS**—"An outstanding, even epochal, cinema achievement...Emphatically one of the best pictures of the talking period..."
- ★ **MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL** (AAAAA—*Extraordinary Rating*)—"Film version of 'Barretts' a great, flawless entertainment...Miss Shearer must be considered for the 1934 award of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences..."

(And it will be the same sweet story all over Canada!)



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"CHAINED
FOREVER—
WHOOPEE
ALONG
COMES
ANOTHER
HAPPY
M-G-M
HIT!
HOORAY!**

The Rex Beach Miracle Man Story Around Dr. Locke of Williamsburg, Ont., Reports Meyer Brenner, of Toronto, as "Angel." Picture to Cost \$85,000. No Public Money!

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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AMUSEMENT STOCKS



IN a recent Digest interview with Mr. N. L. Nathanson, the President of the Famous Players Canadian Corp. Limited, stated that business was sufficiently improved to warrant the opening of many "dark" houses across Canada, in fact stated Mr. Nathanson, "I am opening all of the 'dark' houses in Canada under our control".

Looking over the amusement field in the U.S. we note in "Variety" that twelve amusement stocks responded to a rise in an active market week, being the best since June and that three stocks hit new highs.

Loew's bonds reached a new high of 103. Radio Preferred, A stock, climbed to a new top at 48, being $3\frac{3}{4}$ points above the previous week's close. Radio Preferred B climbed close to its year's high. The advance on a heavy volume of trading sent the stock up for a net advance of $1\frac{3}{4}$ points closing at $30\frac{3}{4}$. This is the fourth successive week for a rise in these shares. 37,300 shares were traded representing the largest volume of shares of Radio B to exchange hands since last May.

Loew's Common reached 31, four points below its high for 1934. Loew's was strongly traded, turning over the heaviest volume of business in months.

Apropos of Loew's the common will net over \$4.00 a share for this year on the outstanding shares of 1,464,205 shares covering the fiscal year ended Sept. 1st. The annual report will be ready in November. The net takes into consideration the payment of taxes, depreciations, as well as the "Rasputin" settlement. It includes also the profits from subsidiary companies.

IN THE BIG MONEY

"THE Barretts of Wimpole Street" played to packed business, Loew's, Toronto, for two weeks, the line-up being in evidence at every

performance. We note that in San Francisco, the report on "Barretts" gave it the lead for business at Warfield, where it is said it will smash all records with a gross of \$28,000. At Newark, N.J., "Barretts" in lead at Loew's looks like \$20,000 on the week or more. At Denver, Col., "Barretts" played to great business at the Denver and then moved over to the Paramount for another week. At Los Angeles, "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", made such a hit that Los Angeles became a Wimpole St. The M-G-M picture looks good it is reported for two weeks, and for a new record in straight sound around \$20,000 on the week.

In Minneapolis, the "Barretts" at advanced prices at the Century boosted itself into a second week, the first good for \$14,000 and the second looking like \$8,000. In Lancaster, Pa., again the "Barretts" did the top business for this city at the Colonial.

RKO GO GAY WITH "GAY DIVORCEE"

ARE they gay at RKO? We will say so with "Gay Divorcee" smashing records and piling up reports like "Little Women". In Boston, Mass., that city famous for The Christian Science Monitor, and equally good things, "Gay Divorcee" at Keith's (RKO) sent the box-office to that region known as "smash business" around \$28,000 which brings it into the "Little Women" class, the latter which holds the record for \$32,000 on the week. "Gay Divorcee" will hold over for a second week. Incidentally RKO start this picture off with a great campaign, and the public which has developed a "raving complex" on "Gay Divorcee" are doing the rest. No wonder amusement stocks are going up and theatres report a 15% increase in business over last year ending in September.



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

AS I sit here before my typewriter, touching the keys with about four fingers, for typing gives me no inspiration; and I still belong to that traditional class which believes that there is more inspiration which flows through a lead pencil in a writer's hand, or through a quill (albeit the quill even of a goose), than through that mechanical device of necessity and utility namely a typewriter; as I sit here, aside from this "thinking out loud process", which involves some personal observations, I am "rarin' to go" because so much news of interest appears to be available for your consideration and information.

From London I hear that the American director, Alfred Santell, walked out on the Toeplitz production, "Dictator", owing to a difference of opinion. There should be no difference of opinion where "Dictators" rule, but there you are, it is a difference of opinion which makes "Dictators" and Unmakes them. That Dear Public called the Mob, it makes Dictators, perhaps at least it thinks that it does. Personally, I have never observed a Mob make anything but trouble, and martyrs. It was a Mob which gave Socrates hemlock to drink, it was a Mob which Crucified Jesus, it was a Mob which stoned the prophets of Jerusalem, it is the Mob which is responsible for the atrocities in Germany.

Regardless of the Power of the Dictator of all Mobs, he is only Dictator through the Mob Intelligence of the Mob and that Intelligence is 100% emotional, so how intelligent is it?

NO GOOD ever came out of a Mob, despite the Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence. Much good has come from certain people born as it were in a stable, another way of stating that they were born in humble surroundings, but the Mob on the whole, may it be damned. You can buy it for a glass of beer, a cigar, a promise of a job, or a mess of pottage.

And think not that the Mob is always in the class of the Unemployed, the Mob may be Capitalists. Many times the Mob is in just that class, we have such examples today, Capitalists who are not Aristocrats, Capitalists who grind and grab their dollars, millions of them with the avariciousness and greediness of the most ragged specimen which makes up the substance of the Mob; and that is why we will never solve Depression, Unemployment and the many ills under which a world labours. The Moneyed Mob, common men with power and wealth have a greedy and common desire to hold on to what they have grabbed, and the system under which they grabbed, even if the whole world lose its heart and soul; and Civilization is ground under the Big Boot of War for Man's Destruction.

Feeling as I felt this morning, I knew this was going to happen to you; and all because I received a letter from London telling me that Santell had walked out on the "Dictator".

Now I know that this soliloquy is more in the realm of philosophy than Motion Pictures, but can I help it if a philosopher gravitated into Motion Pictures, and that in order to publish a Motion Picture Trade Paper in Canada for twenty years one must develop a sense of humour, which means one becomes a philosopher? As for the Purity Film Crusade, and Women's Resolutions, can I live through these without talking to myself?

HOWEVER, to continue with the "Dictator". Victor Saville, who has just finished the direction of "The Iron Duke", with George Arliss, a Gaumont-British big special, he is to continue the direction of the "Dictator"; and now after devoting so much thought and space to this British production, it HAD BETTER BE GOOD.

Talking about good things, you should have been at the luncheon at the Royal York Hotel last week, which Mr. N. L. Nathanson, President of Famous Players Canadian Corp., gave in honour of Mr. Michael Balcon, Supervisor, or Director in Chief of Gaumont-British. It was what might be termed a "lovely party", everybody was lovely to everybody, Mr. "N. L." saw to that, because I saw Col. John Cooper in his loveliest mood kissing the British Lion which came in with the "sweets". No "sweets" are not women, exhibitors, "sweets" means "dessert" the foolish and frivolous food you consume after you have partaken substantially of food. Pardon my explanation, but I know some of our exhibitors.

When Col. Cooper kissed this huge British Lion made of ice, and shaded by a spreading palm tree, the lion, not Col. Cooper, he was in a quandary as to whether the Lion was Leo, belonging to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, or whether it was a compliment to Mr. Sam Smith, head of British Lions, and who was visiting Canada, being also a guest at the luncheon, or whether that lion symbolized the Lion of British pictures, Gaumont-British, and was Mr. Nathanson's compliment to Mr. Michael Balcon, who is a Lion of a Supervisor of Productions among the producers in England.

(Continued on page 8)

"Blood on the Moon" Nazi Propaganda Play at Mazan, Los Angeles is Doing Such a "Bloody" Business That Its Life is Oozing Out Pass by Pass



"Thumbs Down" on Bad Sound

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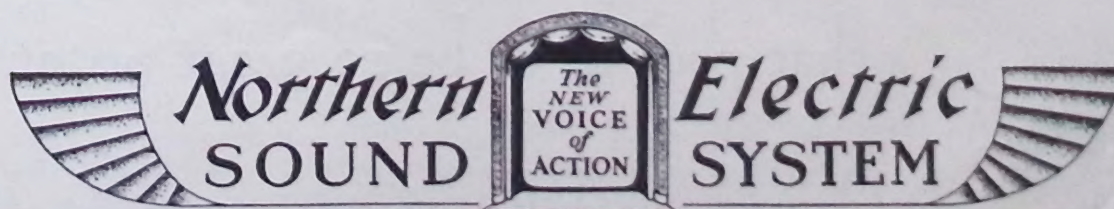
Northern Electric, with its extraordinary facilities for laboratory development, has always stood for the best in sound picture equipment, and in order to MAINTAIN the original high quality of reproduction, which in each case has characterized the installation of "The Voice of Action" in a Canadian Theatre, has organized and maintained a Dominion-wide force of trained service engineers who regularly cover every territory throughout the entire country from Dawson City to Niagara, and from Prince Rupert to Belle Isle.

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WESTERN ELECTRIC IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Although RKO=Radio is still receiving medals for last year's achievements we won't speak of them here. That's past. Today's accomplishments are so fine that they do not need the glamour of yesterday. With the new season but a month on its way, RKO=Radio has plenty of which

to be proud. First, *"The Fountain"*, an audience picture of electrifying power that brought to the screen a new realization of Ann Harding's consummate artistry and terrific box-office magnetism.

Then along came Miriam Hopkins in *"The Richest Girl in the World"*, as delightful a piece of entertainment as

ever commanded unlimited mass appeal and gladdened

the hearts of showmen. Today it's the talk of the country, with critics tumbling over dictionaries to find suitable words of praise. From our studios came that glorious creation in

New

feature



Technicolor, *"La Cucaracha"*, a short that proved to be so great an attraction

that it is being held over on bills, so insistent is the pub-

lic's demand to see it again and again. In our new season

announcements we said, "Great Properties Make Great Pictures." We prove it with Edith Wharton's world-

loved, Pulitzer prize novel "*The Age of Innocence*", co-starring Irene Dunne and John



Boles, re-united for the first time since "*Back Street*".

Drama, comedy, romance, color . . . four hits out of four! Wait! . . . make it five hits out of

five! . . . for here comes Melody, Gaiety, Beauty,

in the most sumptuous rhythmic hit

of all seasons. Showmen, we now give

you "*THE GAY DIVORCEE*"

with the King and Queen of "*Carioca*,"

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers,

stars of "*Flying Down to Rio*."

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

IT has been said of the Motion Picture Industry that it is temperamental, full of exploitation, and publicity, front-page complexes. A few more things have been said about us, but we won't go in to that, but if you have a good memory, which can take you back to the time that Mr. Mellon was Ambassador for the U.S. and was entertained at a dinner given by the Plymouth, or Pilgrim Fathers, either one or the other, a very dignified and important Society, you will remember that in compliment to Ambassador Mellon there was a Lion placed before him made of ice; and during the addresses given on this occasion, so much "hot air", prevailed that The Lion melted away and had to be removed from the table.

At the Motion Picture Luncheon, Jack Hulbert, Gaumont-British star, gave a humourously interesting address, being another guest of honour, Mr. Michael Balcon spoke briefly. Mr. N. L. Nathanson welcomed his guests and spoke enthusiastically of the quality of British Pictures, Col. John Cooper was toastmaster, all combining to make the occasion a festive one; and providing sufficient sincerity and solidity to inspire that British Lion of Ice to hold his own, so that the photographer who turned the eye of his camera upon him, surrounded by His Worship, Mayor Stewart of Toronto, the host and his distinguished guests, including press representatives, he secured a good picture.

INCIDENTALLY, and that is why I have reserved this mention for a paragraph on its own, His Worship, Mayor Stewart of Toronto, and the Council, received Mr. Balcon and Jack Hulbert at the City Hall, preceding the luncheon, and His Worship and the City Clerk Mr. Somers, were guests of honour at the luncheon, His Worship delivering his usual excellent address, witty, pithy, friendly and provocative of consideration on this occasion.

Mayor Stewart enjoys motion pictures, therefore, his advice is always graciously acceptable; and when he mentioned, "Give us pictures not for men only, but pictures to which we can take our entire family", he revealed himself as possessing an insight into real showmanship and as a constructive representative of the people.

Referring again to the luncheon, as Roly Young stated in his "Rambles", the informality of the occasion made the luncheon most enjoyable; and this time Roly was not Rambling when he said that Ray Lewis captured Jack Arthur for luncheon. What Roly overlooked was that I also captured the little orchid blossom from the buttonhole of Mr. Somers, City Clerk; that is Mr. Somers gave it to me, because noting my gray hairs, he thought a little dash of lavender might be becoming, this is aside from the point, the real point is that Mr. Somers, City Clerk of Toronto, has recently celebrated his seventieth birthday; and he looks as if thirty more birthdays will mean nothing in his young life. Mayors may come and Mayors may go, it's never a horse on Mr. Somers, he goes on forever.

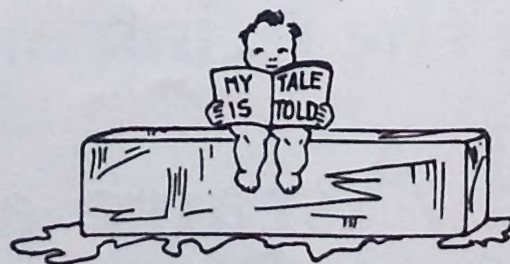
Someone told me that the Centennial celebra-

tion was really an advance celebration in honour of Mr. Somers's One Hundredth Birthday. Be that as it may, it was a great idea of His Worship, Mayor Stewart and his Council; and regardless of the "expense squawks" which we now hear, it was the right and proper thing for Toronto to do, even if Toronto still has a village-pump complex which on occasion interferes with her Good Citizens endeavoring to make her a city of Metropolitan proportions.

AND now while we are still being British in our presentation, do you know that there are TEN BRITISH PICTURES SHOWING IN THE WEST END in London, England? This is a record as this means ten first run houses, B.I.P.'s "Great Defender" is showing at the Capitol, Matheson Lang is the star; "My Song For You", with Jan Kiepura, is being replaced at the New Gallery by Gaumont's "Unfinished Symphony"; "Jew Suss" is at the Tivoli; "Blossom Time", B.I.P.'s big success is in its seventh week at the Regal; "Nell Gwyn", still banned in the U.S., but for which picture there is still hopes of U.S. distribution. "Nell Gwyn" is packing Leicester Square, and the U.S. "banned" has not prevented the English from showing their approval of Mistress Nell. "Evensong" is at the Victoria, British Lion's "Gay Love" is at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's British Theatre, The Empire; The Dominion Theatre has "Evensong", the Gaumont-British feature starring Evelyn Laye, who does the best work of her screen career according to Mr. Michael Balcon, and if he says so, it is 100 percent true. The Polytechnic has a revival of "Henry VIII" and Shepherd's Bush Pavilion has "Chu Chin Chow", which recently played The Uptown, Toronto, to record-breaking business for a two-week's run.

The biggest British money-makers I am told are "Blossom Time", "Nell Gwyn" and "Jew Suss". You have never seen such crowds as line up before the theatres in London to see motion pictures at 8/6, which means approximately \$2.25 a seat. That is the top price at Leicester Square.

At 11.45 A.M. The Digest's London correspondent, Mr. Dennison Thornton, who has been furnishing me with such excellent British News, tells me that he passed the Regal Theatre, this was 45 minutes before the house opened, and there was a long queue for "Blossom Time", which was in its sixth week. As for "Jew Suss", soon to have its premiere in Canada, unless you go early you will be obliged to stand for hours in order to get a seat.



Jack Hulbert, Gaumont-British Star, Makes Personal Appearance Hit at Toronto Theatres



Show Business



"The Merry Widow" Opened Broadway Oct. 11

"The Merry Widow", with Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald in co-starring roles had its first showing at the Astor Theatre Thursday evening, October 11, and will remain at that playhouse for an indefinite engagement.

In production at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios since last spring, this new photoplay based on Franz Lehár's musical romance was directed by Ernst Lubitsch. The supporting cast includes Edward Everett Horton, Una Merkel, George Barbier, Minna Gombell, Donald Meek and Sterling Holloway.

"Strange Wives" in Production at Universal City

"Strange Wives" went into production on Monday at Universal City. This is the releasing title of the Edith Wharton novel, "Bread Upon the Waters". Its cast features Roger Pryor and June Clayworth. As soon as Hugh O'Connell finishes his role in "The Man Who Reclaimed His Head", he will be added to the "Strange Wives" cast with Cesar Romero, who was featured with him in "Cheating Cheaters". Richard Thorpe, who directed this Max Marcin crook picture, also is handling the megaphone on "Strange Wives". Other players in this cast include Francis L. Sullivan, Esther Ralston and Valerie Hobson.

RKO Van Beuren Releases Another Burke-White Film

"Baku To Dnieprostro", the latest in the new series of Vagabond Adventure films, presenting picturesque camera studies of the interior of Russia made by Margaret Bourke-White, the famous globe trotter and internationally known photographer, is ready for release by the RKO Van Beuren Corporation.

The subject which is replete with unusual views of native life amongst the Peasants on the plains furnishes a first hand view of the latest Russian achievements.

M-G-M Buys Rights to Hilton's "Rage of Heaven"

Screen rights to James Hilton's novel, "Rage of Heaven", have been acquired by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the same company which recently bought Mr. Halton's other popular story, "Good-bye, Mr. Chips".

Both of these books will be added to the new season production program at Culver City, with selection of casts to be made later, "Rage in Heaven" was published in this country by Alfred King.

Timely Football Comedy Released by RKO Radio

"Songs of the Colleges", a two-reel subject featuring Hal Roberts and his famous Trojan Band, is being released by RKO Radio Pictures in October together with two other two-reelers, four single-reelers and eight issues of Pathe News.

Warner Bros. Complete Cast of Shakespeare Play

Josephine Hutchinson will play the role of Hermione in the forthcoming screen production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", which will be directed by Max Reinhardt for Warner Bros. The selection of Miss Hutchinson for this part is the only cast-assignment yet made. Prof. Reinhardt is now in San Francisco directing a stage production of the "Dream" at the War Memorial Theatre in that city. He will return to the Warner Bros. studio in Burbank, Calif., on November 15th to begin active preparations for the first motion picture he has ever directed.

Irvin S. Cobb Signed to Write M-G-M Feature

Irvin S. Cobb, who has been working in comedy short features at the Hal Roach studio, has been engaged by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to write an original story for the current season's production schedule.

Several Cobb stories have been adapted for pictures, and one, "Judge Priest", was recently completed as a Will Rogers starring vehicle.

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Toronto Theatres

LOEWS—Manager Jules Bernstein — "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production with Norma Shearer, Fredric March and Charles Laughton.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — "Cleopatra", with Claudette Colbert, and Warren William, a Paramount picture.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — "One Night of Love", with Grace Moore, Columbia production.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Jean Parker, James Dunn and Stuart Erwin in the M-G-M production, "Have a Heart".

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — Second week for "Chu Chin Chow", Gaumont-British production.

Mayor Stewart Tells Toronto This City Indebted to N. L. Nathanson to the extent of \$55,000 Free Show Admissions for Unemployed

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